

EVALUATION PROGRAM for

SECONDARY SPACECRAFT CELLS

ACCEPTANCE TESTS

OF

100 AMPERE-HOUR NICKEL-CADMIUM CELLS

MANUFACTURED BY

GULTON INDUSTRIES

prepared for
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
CONTRACT W12,397

QUALITY EVALUATION LABORATORY

NAD CRANE, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT

CRANE, INDIANA 47522

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Ref: (a) NASA P. O. No. W12,397

Encl: (1) Report QE/C 71-283

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EVALUATION PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SPACECRAFT CELLS

> ACCEPTANCE TESTS OF GULTON INDUSTRIES 100.0 AMPERE-HOUR NICKEL-CADMIUM CELLS

QE/C 71-283 20 JULY 1971

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REPORT BRIEF GULTON INDUSTRIES 100.0 AMPERE-HOUR NICKEL-CADMIUM SPACECRAFT CELLS

Ref: (a) NASA, Langley Research Center, P. O. No. L-32,102
(b) Acceptance Test Procedure for Nickel-Cadmium Cells:
NAD 3022-TP 304, Rev A, 14 May 1970

I. TEST ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

- A. The purpose of this acceptance test program is to insure that all cells put into the life cycle program are of high quality by the removal of cells found to have electrolyte leakage, internal shorts, low capacity, or inability of any cell to recover its open circuit voltage above 1.200 volts after cell short tests.
- B. The 23 cells were purchased by National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, from Gulton Industries, Metuchen, New Jersey. These cells were rated at 100.0 ampere-hours. Five of these cells were equipped with auxiliary electrodes. Testing on these cells was funded in accordance with reference (a).

II. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- A. The capacity of the 23 cells ranged from 48.3 to 125.0 ah. Ten cells delivered less than rated capacity on one or more of the three capacity checks.
- B. Five cells failed to recover to 1.200 volts as established by the procedure for the cell short tests.
- C. Electrolyte leakage was not observed for any of the 23 cells.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. From the results of this acceptance test, it was recommended that these 100.0 ampere-hour cells not be placed on life cycling. This recommendation was based on low capacity of 10 cells and on the failure of five cells to meet the specified recovery voltage during the short tests. It was further noted by National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, that cells of the same lot as those tested at NAD Crane contained excessive carbonates based on their data. Thus it was mutually agreed that the 23 cells be returned to National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, for carbonate removal by flushing with electrolyte prior to beginning any life cycling tests on these cells.

RESULTS OF ACCEPTANCE TESTS OF

100.0 AMPERE-HOUR NICKEL-CADMIUM SPACECRAFT CELLS MANUFACTURED BY GULTON INDUSTRIES

I. INTRODUCTION

A. On 7 November 1970, acceptance tests were begun on 23 cells manufactured by Gulton Industries, Metuchen, New Jersey. These tests were completed 11 February 1971.

II. TEST CONDITTIONS

- A. All acceptance tests were performed at an ambient temperature between 23° C and 27° C at existing relative humidity and atmospheric pressure, in accordance with reference (b) and consisted of the following:
 - 1. Phenolphthalein Leak Test.
 - 2. Three Capacity Tests.
 - 3. Two Cell Short Tests.
 - 4. Phenolphthalein Leak Test.
 - 5. Overcharge Test, c/20 rate and c/10 rate.
 - 6. Internal Resistance.
 - 7. Phenolphthalein Leak Test.

III. CELL IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

- A. The cells were identified by the manufacturer's serial numbers (14 through 53)--not consecutive.
- B. The 100.0 ampere-hour cell is rectangular with an average height, width, and length of 7.308, 7.604 and 1.415 inches, respectively. The average weight was 4121.4 grams for cells without auxiliary electrodes and 4162.0 grams for cells with auxiliary electrodes. Figure 1 is a photograph of the Gulton Industries 100.0 ampere-hour cell.
- C. The cell containers, and the cell covers are made of stainless steel. Both terminals are insulated from the cell covers by ceramic seals and protrude through the cover as screw type terminals. The positive and negative terminals are on opposite ends of the cell.

- IV. RESULTS-- The following data was condensed from Table I. For details on procedure, see Appendix I.
 - A. The average capacity for the three capacity checks was:
- 1. Cells without auxiliary electrodes: 112.7, 106.0, and 94.3 ampere-hours respectively.
- 2. Cells with auxiliary electrodes: 121.3, 115.3 and 108.3 ampere-hours respectively.
- 3. Ten of the 23 cells delivered less than rated capacity on one or more of the capacity checks. These ten cells had no auxiliary electrodes. The capacities ranged from 48.3 to 125.0 ampere-hours for all 23 cells.
- B. The average recovery voltages for the two short tests (see paragraph I.C. of Appendix I for complete description) were:
 - 1. 24-hour open circuit following dead short:
 - a. Without auxiliary electrodes: 1.227 volts.
 - b. With auxiliary electrodes: 1.032 volts.
 - 2. Dead Short; c/10 chg. 5 minute; 24-hour open circuit:
 - a. Without auxiliary electrodes: 1.232 volts.
- b. With auxiliary electrodes: 0.565 volts. Five of the 23 cells failed to recover to the 1.200 volts limit on one or both of the short tests.
 - C. The end-of-overcharge voltage averaged:
- 1. Cells without auxiliary electrodes: 1.416 volts at c/20 and 1.422 volts at c/10.
- 2. Cells with auxiliary electrodes: 1.389 volts at c/20 and 1.376 volts at c/10. One cell, without auxiliary electrode (serial number 52), was removed from the c/10 charge due to pressure over the 30 psig limit.
 - D. The internal resistance averaged:
 - 1. Cells without auxiliary electrodes: 0.570 milliohms.
- 2. Cells with auxiliary electrodes: 0.964 milliohms. The internal resistance of the third electrodes averaged 5.8 milliohms.

- E. The capacity to 1.000 volt following the overcharge averaged:
 - 1. Cells without auxiliary electrode: 116.2 ampere-hour.
 - 2. Cells with auxiliary electrode: 114.3 ampere-hour.
- ${\tt F.}$ There was no evidence of any leakers out of the 23 cells tested.

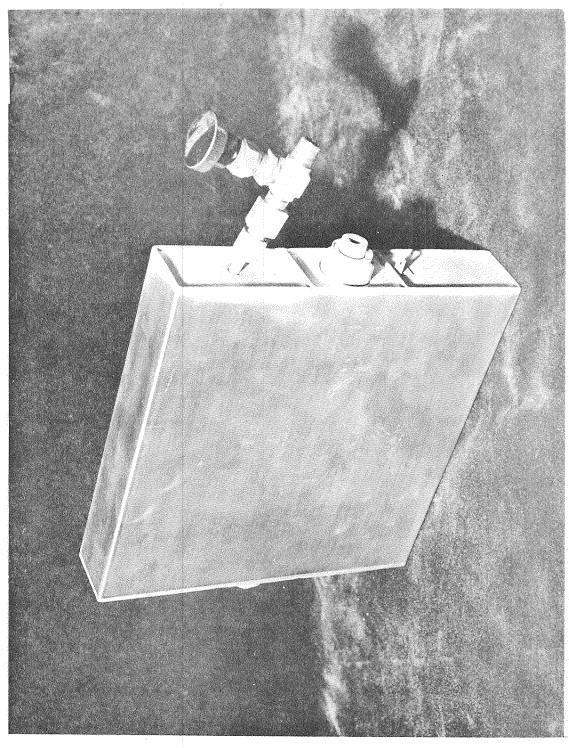


FIGURE 1

TABLE I GULTON 100.0 AMPERE-HOURS CELLS WITHOUT AUXILIARY ELECTRODES

C/1 DISCHARGE FOLLOWING OVERCHARGE	123.3	121.7	115.0	121.7	133.3	108.3	121.7	113.3	125.0	121.7	110.0	116.7	111.7	120.0	126.7	101.7	7.96	103.3	116.2
INTERNAL RESISTANCE (MILLIOHMS)	0.620	0.659	0.522	0,640	0.481	0.620	0.595	0.479	0.490	0.542	0.739	0.678	0.525	0.499	0.655	0.500	0.530	0.490	0.570
OVERCHARGE (VOLTS) /20 c/10	1.445	1.439	1.441	1.441	1.439	1,405	1.413	1.417	1.419	1.426	1.416	1.421	1.423	1.426	1.430	1.401	1.394	1.399	1.422
OVER(VV c/20	1.426	1.421	1.421	1.422	1.428	1.410	1.408	1.414	1.420	71,417	1.414	1.413	1.416	1.419	1.422	1.407	1.406	1.412	1.416
CELL SHORT TEST (VOLTS)	1.240	1.243	1.244	1.241	1.241	1.214	1.230	1.214	1.212	1.229	1.241	1.238	1.237	1.243	1.241	1.220	1.229	1.227	1.232
CELL SE (VC	1,188	1.210	1.215	1.204	1.171	1.232	1.238	1.246	1.221	1.251	1.239	1.237	1.235	1.238	1.240	1.237	1.245	1.243	1,227
3 3	1.901	105.1	98.3	108.3	111.7	98.3	105.0	7.96	110.0	91.7	98.3	2.96	2.96	100.0	100.0	2.99	48.3	58.3	94.3
CAPACITY CHECKS (AMPERE-HOURS) 2	116.7	113.3	106.7	118.3	120.0	110.0	110.0	1.901	115.0	103.5	108.3	108.3	106.7	106.7	108.3	88.3	80.0	81.7	106.0
CAJ (Al	121.7	115.0	111.7	121.7	125.0	111.7	111.7	110.0	7.111	105.0	113.3	7.11.1	111.7	113.0	116.7	105.0	106.7	108.3	112.7
WIDTH (INCHES)	7.615	7.621	7.617	7.610	7.616	7.521	7.619	7.616	7.613	7.610	7.520	7.611	4.609	019.7	7.608	7.628	7.610	7.520	*
LENGTH (INCHES)	1.423	1.425	1.413	1.421	1.419	1.411	1.413	1.412	1.411	1.422	1.411	1.411	1.411	1.417	1.416	1.406	1.422	1.411	*
HEIGHT (INCHES)	7.305	7.312	7.305	7.312	7.316	7.317	7.311	7.317	7.320	7.316	7.306	7.321	7.302	7.305	7.307	7.305	7.316	7.306	*
WEIGHT (IN GRAMS)	4098.1	4112.8	4124.3	4133.2	4132.5	4115.9	4112.3	4126.7	4139.6	4124.1	4120.8	4.124	4101.5	4121.4	4131.9	4120.3	4137.4	4108.7	4121.4
CELL	14	15	. 91	17	18	19	50	22	53	54	56	27	28	29	33	20	52	53	AVG

TABLE I (CONT)
GULFON 100.0 AMPERE-HOURS CELLS
WITH AUXILIARY ELECTRODES

			i				CAPACITY	Y CHECKS	**			٠	J	OVERCHARGE	RGE		INTERNAL	NAL	C/1 DISCHAR(FOLLOWING	/1 DISCHARGE FOLLOWING
CELL	C WEIGHT	HEIGHT	LENGTH	WIDIM		l AUX E		2 AUX E		3 AUX E	CELL SHORT TEST (VOLIS)	RT TEST TS)	c/20	(AOLTS)	'S) C/10		RESISTANCE (MILIOHMS)	TANCE (TOHMS)	OVERCHARGE	ARGE ATTX E
SN	(IN GRAME	(IN GRAMS)(INCHES) (INCHES)	(INCHES)	(INCHES)	A.H.	VOLT	A.H.	VOLT	A.H.	VOLT		Q1	CELL	AUX E	AUX E CELL	AUX E	CELL	AUX E	CAP.	VOLT
35		4165.8 7.317	1.422	7.600	121.7	940.	113.3	680.	103.3	.065	1.254	1.211	1.387	1.387 .303	1.379	.349	0.770	5.6	115.0	.033
38	4170.8	7.305	1.417	7.615	120.0	.021	7,111	0.54	110.0	.121	1.252	0.201	1.383	307	1.374	.348	1.050	5.9	120.0	.032
39		4158.4 7.306	1.412 7.610	7.610	120.0	.017	7.111	.086	100.0	.085	1.250	1.211	1.382	370	1.371	.483	0.980	6.2	101.7	006
04		7.304	1.408	7.619	125.0	.021	123.3	.026	116.7	.023	1.203	0.084	1.395 .131	.131	1.376	576	1.020	5.9	118.3	.022
T#		4153.9 7.300	1.412	7.607	120.0	,014	116.7	.015	111.7	.018	0.203	0.119	1.399 .159	159	1.382	236	1.000	5.4	1.911	.015
AVG	g 4162.0	7.308	7.308 1.415 7.604	7.604	121.3	,024	115.3	450.	108.3	.042	1.032	0.565	1.389	.254	1.376	.388	196.0	5.8	114.3	.019
*He	*Height, length and width data are averaged for all 23 ce.	th and wid	th data ai	re averag	ed for al	11 23 ce.	11s.													

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APPENDIX I

I. TEST PROCEDURE

A. Phenolphthalein Leak Test:

1. The phenolphthalein leak test is a determination of the condition of the welds and ceramic seals on receipt of the cells. This test was performed prior to any other tests, with a phenolphthalein spray indicator solution of one-half of one percent concentration.

B. Capacity Tests:

- 1. The capacity test is a determination of the cell capacity at the c/l discharge rate, where c is the manufacturer's rated capacity to a cutoff voltage of 1.00 volt per cell. The discharge was made after a 1-hour open circuit period following the 16-hour charge at the c/l0 rate. A total of three capacity checks was made at this activity. The cells were discharged individually, but were recharged in series.
- 2. The five cells with auxiliary electrodes were loaded with 5.1 ohm resistors across the auxiliary electrodes. These resistors were installed prior to the start of the capacity checks and remained throughout the test.

C. Cell Short Test:

- 1. The cell short test is a means of detecting slight shorting conditions which may exist because of imperfections in the insulating materials, or damage to element in handling or assembly.
- 2. Following completion of the third capacity discharge test, each cell was loaded with a 0.05 ohm, 10 watt resistor, for 8 hours, then dead shorted with bus wire for 16 hours. At the end of 16 hours, the dead short was removed and the cells were placed on open circuit stand for 24 hours. Any cell whose voltage did not recover to 1.200 volts or higher was considered as failing this portion of the acceptance test.
- 3. Upon completion of (I.C.2) above, the cells were again loaded with 0.05 ohm resistors for 8 hours, and dead shorted with bus wire for 16 hours. At the end of 16 hours, the bus wire was removed and the cells were charged for 5 minutes at the c/10 rate. At the end of 5 minutes the cells were placed on open circuit for 2^{14} hours. Any cell whose voltage dropped below 1.200 volts was considered as failing this portion of the acceptance test.

D. Leak Test:

1. The leak test is a means of detecting leakage of a seal or weld. The test was performed before and after the overcharge test sequence to determine the presence of leaks.

2. The cells were placed in a vacuum chamber and exposed to a vacuum of 40 microns of mercury or less for 24 hours. The cells were then removed from the vacuum chamber and sprayed with phenolphthalein. Pink or redish discolorations would indicate leakage.

E. Overcharge Test:

- 1. The purpose of this test is basically threefold:
- a. To determine the degree to which a pack of cells maintain a balanced voltage.
- b. To determine the cells capability of reaching a point of chemical equilibrium--ozygen recombination with the negative (cadmium) plate.
- c. To test the integrity of the seals as the pressure increases.
- 2. The overcharge tests were performed to determine the steady state voltage at specified rates. The test specified a series of constant current charges at c/10, c/20 and c/10 for a minimum of 16 hours at each charge rate. The first c/10 rate serves to establish a condition of overcharge.
- 3. The cells were monitored hourly throughout the test. Charging was to be discontinued on cells which exceeded 1.55 volts, 49° C, or 30 psig.

F. Internal Resistance:

1. Immediately following the overcharge test, the internal resistance was measured across the cell terminals and, where applicable, across the auxiliary electrodes (from auxiliary electrode terminal to negative terminal). These measurements were made with a Hewlett-Packard milliohmmeter (Model 4328A)

G. Leak Test:

1. Following the internal resistance measurements, the cells were still in a charged state. The cells were discharged at c/l to 0.00 volt and shorted prior to the final leak test. The shorted cells were then placed in a vacuum chamber and the procedure described in paragraph I.D.2. was repeated.

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Mauchly Associates, Inc. (Dr. John Mauchly), Commerce and Enterprise, Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania 18936

McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company (MS 17, BBCO, Mr. A. D. Tonelli), 5301 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach, California 92647

McDonnell Douglas Astronuatics Company, Headquarters Space Systems Center (Bldg 11-3-12, MS 12, Dr. George Moe), 5301 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach, California 92647

North American Rockwell Corp., Rocketdyne Division (Library), 6633 Canoga Avenue, Canoga Park, California 91304

Philco-Ford Corporation, Power and Control Engineering Department (M.S. R-26, Mr. D. C. Briggs), 3939 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, California 94303

Portable Power Sources Corporation (Mr. Leon Schulman), 166 Pennsylvania Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York 10552

Power Information Center, University City Science Institute, Room 2210, 3401 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Prime Battery Corporation, 15600 Cornet Street, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670

RAI Research Corporation, 225 Marcus Boulevard, Hauppauge, New York 11787

RCA Corporation, Astro Electronics Division (Mr. Paul Nekrasov), P. O. Box 800, Princeton, New Jersev 08540

SAFT Corporation of America (Mr. D. Verrier), 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10020

Dr. Robert C. Shair, 58 Harman Road, Edison, New Jersey 08817

Southwest Research Institute (Library), P. O. Drawer 28510, San Antonio, Texas 78228

Spectrolab, Inc. (Dr. Harvey Seiger), 12484 Gladstone Avenue, Sylmar, California 91342

Stanford Research Institute (Dr. Fritz R. Kalhammer), 19722 Jamboree Boulevard, Irvine, California 92664

Texas Instruments, Inc. (Dr. J. W. Ross), 34 Forest Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703

TRW Systems, Inc. (Dr. W. R. Scott, M-2/22154), One Space Park, Redondo Beach, California 90278

TRW Systems, Inc. (Dr. Herbert P. Silverman, R-1/2094), One Space Park, Redondo Beach, California 90278

TRW, Inc. (Librarian, TIM 3417), 23555 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44117

Tyco Laboratories, Inc. (Dr. Jose Giner), Bear Hill, Hickory Drive, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Union Carbide Corporation, Development Laboratory, P. O. Box 6056, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Union Carbide Corporation, Consumer Products Division, (Dr. Ralph Brodd), P. O. Box 6116, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Union Carbide Corporation, Consumer Products Division (Dr. Robert Powers), P. O. Box 6116, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

University of Pennsylvania, Electrochemistry Laboratory (Prof. John O'M. Bockris), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Utah Research and Development Co., Inc. (Mr. William Boyd), 1820 South Industria Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Research and Development Center (Dr. C. C. Hein, Contract Admin.), Churchill Borough, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania 15235

Whittaker Corporation, Power Sources Division (Mr. L. K. White), 3850 Olive Street, Denver, Colorado 80237

Yardney Electric Co. (Mr. P. Deluca and Mr. M. Read), 82 Mechanic Street, Pawcatuck, Connecticut 02891